

ITEM: 14

SUBJECT: Groundwater Strategy For The Central Valley Region

BOARD ACTION: *Consideration of Special Resolution*

BACKGROUND: At the 23 October 2008 meeting of the Central Valley Regional Water Board staff presented a resolution in support of developing a Groundwater Strategy for the Central Valley Region. Those who commented expressed concerns that the Regional Water Board might not reflect the significant work that others are doing in their groundwater management. Upon consideration of the public comments the Board directed staff to bring back the resolution with revisions to provide a clearer description of the strategy development.

Staff has revised the resolution to identify the intent to coordinate with other agencies to avoid duplication of work. An additional finding was included to recognize groundwater impacts related to commercial, industrial, and military discharges. The completion date has been revised due to the amount of time needed to coordinate this effort.

The revised resolution would acknowledge that multiple agencies have roles that directly, or indirectly, can affect the quality of groundwater. Direct authority to protect groundwater resources is with the State and Regional Water Boards. The Department of Pesticide Regulation protects human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and uses. The Department of Toxic Substances Control regulates hazardous waste, cleans-up existing contamination, and looks for ways to reduce the hazardous waste produced in California. The Department of Public Health Services is responsible for the enforcement of the federal and California Safe Drinking Water Acts and regulatory oversight of public water systems to assure the delivery of safe drinking water. The Department of Water Resources authority is to manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies. There are numerous local water agencies that have developed and are implementing AB3030 Groundwater Management Plans as well.

The resolution would recognize the need to address the issues the Central Valley Water Board faces to assure comprehensive, consistent, and coordinated protection of the beneficial uses of groundwater throughout the Region. The Central Valley Water Board will identify existing programs and avoid duplication of these programs through this effort.

This resolution would recognize the need to develop a long-term strategy that will identify high priority activities, recognize the water board's core responsibilities and existing commitments; and build

on existing processes. Recognizing the importance of working with those with an interest in groundwater issues, staff will work with multiple stakeholders and interested parties that would include state and local agencies along with local partners, nonprofit organizations, environmental, and environmental justice groups to develop a groundwater strategy.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the proposed Resolution.

Mgmt. Review_____

Legal Review_____ LTO_____

5 December 2008
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670